

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 8, and 10 through 16 to read as follows. Note that all of the claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method for forming an image on a recording medium, said method comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a first step for applying fusible powder toner to a recording medium to form a toner image;

a second step for applying liquid ink containing a coloring material to said recording medium to form an ink image; and

a third step for ~~performing~~ thermal fixing [of] an image formed by said first ~~step and said second steps step~~.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to Claim 1, further comprising a ~~fourth~~ step for semi-fixing a ~~the~~ toner image, ~~said fourth step being performed between said first step and said second steps step~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to Claim 2, wherein said ~~fixing fourth~~ step is a pressurizing fixing ~~step~~.

4. **(Original)** An image formation method according to any of the Claims 1 through 3, wherein said fusible powder toner contains a black coloring agent.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to any of the Claims 1 through 4 3, wherein said liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ inks of the three colors of yellow, magenta, and cyan.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to any of the Claims 1 through 4 3, wherein said liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ inks of the four colors of yellow, magenta, cyan, and black.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to any of the Claims 1 through 6 3, wherein said liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ a coloring material and a non-aqueous solvent.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation method according to any of the Claims 1 through 7 3, wherein, in said second step, liquid ink is applied to ~~said~~ the recording medium by ink-jet recording.

9. **(Original)** An image formation apparatus for forming an image on a recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

first means for applying fusible powder toner to a recording medium to form a toner image;

second means for applying liquid ink containing a coloring material to said recording medium to form an ink image; and

third means for ~~performing~~ thermal fixing of an image formed by said first and second means.

10. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further composing fixing means for semi-fixing ~~a the~~ toner image ~~between said first and second means formed by said first means.~~

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said fixing means performs comprises a pressurizing fixing means.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to any of the Claims 9 through 11, wherein said the fusible powder toner contains a black coloring agent.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to any of the Claims 9 through ~~+2~~ 11, wherein ~~said~~ the liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ inks of the three colors of yellow, magenta, and cyan.

14. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to any of the Claims 9 through ~~+2~~ 11, wherein said liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ inks of the four colors of yellow, magenta, cyan, and black.

15. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to any of the Claims 9 through ~~+4~~ 11, wherein said liquid ink comprises ~~at least~~ a coloring material and a non-aqueous solvent.

16. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to any of the Claims 9 through ~~+5~~ 11, wherein, said second means applies liquid ink to ~~said~~ the recording medium by ink-jet recording.